PATENT

Appl. No. 10/650,360 Amdt. dated December 4, 2003 Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been amended to change the priority information for the application. The previously claimed priority to U.S. Non-Provisional Application No. 10/232,875, filed August 30, 2002 (Attorney Docket No. 21154-000210US) has been deleted. An ADS is being submitted with this Preliminary Amendment to reflect the change in priority information. Applicants submit that no new subject matter has been added by the amendment to the specification.

Claims 1-53 are pending in this application. No claims have been amended.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

5. B. Kotwal

Sujit B. Kotwal Reg. No. 43,336

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor San Francisco, California 94111-3834 Tel: 650-326-2400

Fax: 650-326-2422 SBK:km

SBK:km 60076726 v1